



# Riverside Neighborhood Partnership

Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2002, 6:30pm  
Mayor's Ceremonial Room

**Members Present:** Jacob Hernandez, Leticia Pepper, Randy Akes, Tom Martin, Barbara Brown, Dana Kruckenberg, David McNeil, Ernie Hautala, Gerald Smith, Claudia Johnson, Marie Leggette, Christina Duran, Rita Norton, Erin House, Araceli Moore, Jay Dyer, Letitia Pepper, Manuel Carrasco

**Members Excused:** Richard Burns

**Members Unexcused:** Jaime Hurtado, Brenda Flowers, Lee Wagner, Nancy Hart

**Guests:** Lydia Salazar, RPIH, Phyllis Wells, Peter Weber, John Duran, Herlinda Gonzales, Fair Housing, Carol Johnson, Elaine Baggett, Ray Higgins, John Duran, Christina Pearson,

**Staff:** Martha Matus, Community Relations Assistant, and Eva Webster, Director of Office of Neighborhoods

## 1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Tom Martin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair at 6:40pm.

## 2. Welcome by City Manager

City Manager welcomed the RNP members. He stated that neighborhoods are very important part of the city. Under his management he will support the efforts of the partnership and neighborhood organizations to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods. He invited the members to attend the Community Strategic Meeting scheduled for October 26, 2002. He believes that through effective communication and being an inclusive community, we can attain a better perspective of what the residents envision the City of Riverside to be in the next one to three years. His first impression of the community is that the residents want to see change, but it takes the commitment of its residents to introduce change. Secondly, the residents value their history and the middle-class capital is strong. In the years to come, he will encourage the community to work together to make a difference for the homeless population, for the gang and drug problems and create a credible institution that builds trust and confidence between the city and the community.

## 3. Election of Officers/Selection of Subcommittee Chair

Manuel Carrasco, chairman, opened the floor for nominations for the chairmanship position. David McNeil nominated Manuel Carrasco and Erin House seconded. David McNeil motioned to close the floor and Gerald Smith seconded. The members voted unanimously in favor of Manuel Carrasco to serve 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Chairman of the RNP.

The floor was opened for nominations for first vice chairman. Rita Norman and Dana Kruckenberg nominated David McNeil; Barbara Brown and Randy Akes nominated Tom Martin; and Leticia Pepper and Jacob Hernandez nominated Gerald Smith for first vice chairman. Ernie Hataula motioned to close the floor for nominations and Gerald Smith seconded. By a hand vote, the 8 votes for David McNeil, 4 votes Tom Martin, and 4 votes for Gerald Smith. The members voted by 8 votes in favor of David McNeil to serve as first vice chairman of the RNP.

The floor was opened for nominations for second vice chairman. Dana Kruckenberg and David McNeil nominated Tom Martin; and Rita Norton and Jacob Hernandez nominated Gerald Smith. Erin House and David McNeil motioned to close the floor for nominations. By a hand vote, 7 votes for Tom Martin and 7 votes Gerald Smith. With a tie, Tom Martin withdrew his nomination and Gerald Smith accepted to serve as second vice chairman of the RNP.

Selection of Subcommittee Volunteers:

1. Jack B Clark Good Neighbor Award – David, Gerald, Jay, Erin, Shelly
2. Neighborhood Pride Award – Jay, David, Claudia, Randy, Jacob

3. Neighborhood Conference – Jacob, Dana, Gerald, Christina, Randy
4. Matching Grant – Leticia, Christina, Jay, David, Randy
5. Bylaws – vote for this committee - Letitia, and Jerry

The RNP tentatively accepted volunteers for a Publicity subcommittee to be agendized for a later date. Rita and Dana volunteered.

#### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes August 5, 2002**

Minutes of the August 5, 2002 Orientation and Social Recognition Dinner were amended to reflect in item number three that a motion was made to assist in the facilitation of the meeting with the developer, city, and community members. Also, the SANWA representative name is Christian Pearson. David McNiel motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried. Also, Letitia Pepper would like the minutes to reflect the she and other members not present at the meeting should be considered excused since it was not an official monthly meeting.

#### **5. Report from Office of Neighborhoods on RNP attendance relative to Article IV, Section 4 of RNP Bylaws.**

Eva Webster read the bylaws Article IV, Section 4; the staff prepared an RNP attendance report for the year 2001-2003. They identified that there are two members with three consecutive unexcused absences (Ernie Hataula and John Garcia). Discussion held for consideration of members to remain on the board or be excused. Erin House motioned that we remove John Garcia from the RNP board and seconded Gerald Smith. David called for the question. 13 members voted to remove John Garcia from the RNP. (Motion carried.) Jacob Hernandez recommended that the RNP board consider replacing the vacancy with Phyllis Wells. Manual requested to agendize recommendation for discussion/action at the next meeting.

#### **6. Letter to the City Council on behalf of SANWA**

Manuel Carrasco wrote the letter to the City Council on behalf of the SANWA organization and will provide a copy to Office of Neighborhoods staff and neighborhood group. Gerald Smith will help Manuel set-up the meeting being facilitated by developer, city, and community.

#### **7. Discussion of how notifications for new developments are distributed.**

Discussion was held on the impacts that developments have on the community and whether new developments are welcomed in the city and why. Gerald Smith asked the planning department if community leaders could be notified of new developments in the area and whether they have a system in place to invite neighborhood leaders. David McNiel offered a substitute motion for the interested parties to form a subcommittee to study the issue and meet with planning department and bring a full report to the committee. (Rita Norton seconded). Letitia substituted the motion to request that the planning department explain their notification system to the RNP at an upcoming meeting. (Jay Dyer seconded). Call for the question. Motioned carried, with David McNiel opposed.

#### **8. Office of Neighborhoods Update**

- a. Fire Station Open house sponsored by neighborhood leaders September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Mayor's Night Out – September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Community Strategic Meeting– October 26<sup>th</sup>
- d. College and Career Fair – September 24<sup>th</sup>
- e. Support of new neighborhood groups. Thank you to Jacob Hernandez for supporting Berkshire Hills neighborhood group. Christina Duran went to Eastside neighborhood groups National Night Out events.

#### **9. Future Agenda Items**

- Manual Carrasco stated that Herlinda Gonzales from Fair Housing was present to make a presentation on the housing programs they have available and would like to request the RNP's support of their programs. Due to miscommunication they were not placed on agenda for September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, but requested that they be placed on the agenda for October.
- Gerald Smith requested that the development issue be discussed.
- Tom Martin requested that staff invite a representative from Planning Department to explain the notification process for new developments and changes on developments to community leaders.
- Letitia Pepper stated that the Measure R and C initiatives were adopted by the City of Riverside and requests that the RNP participate in these initiatives.
- Christina Duran requested that Jonathen Duran, chairman of the Creative Conscience Eastside neighborhood youth group would like to make a presentation to the RNP about their efforts.

**10. Other Business/Public comment**

- Gerald Smith requested information about the Parent Block program. Eva Webster will provide information about the "Walking School Bus."
- David McNiel will attend the Downtown Partnership on September 10<sup>th</sup> about the specific plan to support neighborhoods.
- Jacob Hernandez attended the Berkshire Hills neighborhood group meeting. He also was involved in the feeding of 350 families at Villegas Park.
- Dana Kruckenberg requested that Eva Webster email/mail pertinent information to RNP board members on issues or events as needed.

**11. Next Meeting: October 7, 2002, 6:30pm**

**12. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm**

**Minutes were prepared by Office of Neighborhoods' staff.**